

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3107

S E C R E T ANKARA 1783

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TU

SUBJD: DISCUSSION WITH TURK AMBASSADOR ON ELECTRONIC WARFARE(EW)

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF, USCINCEUR AND DIRNSA

1. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL ON MARCH 8 (OTHER SUBJECTS SEPARATELY REPORTED), I EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CURRENT STATUS OF THE E-2 NEGOTIATIONS. I EMPHASIZED EXTENT TO WHICH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND OTHERS HAD GONE IN ORDER TO FIND THE MONEY TO MAKE WHAT I CONSIDERED TO BE NOW A VERY RESPECTABLE US OFFER. I WAS NOT SURE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOT OFFICIALS UNDERSTOOD THE EFFORT THAT LAY BEHIND OUR OFFER, AND FELT THAT THERE WAS A TENDENCY NOT TO TAKE IT AS SERIOUSLY AS THEY SHOULD. I NOTED ADVERSE IMPACT IN WASHINGTON TO TURKISH OFFICIALS TENDING TO TREAT THIS OFFER IN THE SAME MANNER AS THEY HAD TREATED OUR EARLIER ONE.

2. ESENBEL SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SPOKEN TO HIM ABOUT THE E-2 PROBLEM AND THAT HE HAD DIRECTED HIM TO RAISE IT WHEN HE GOT TO WASHINGTON. HE THEN REACHED IN HIS POCKET AND BROUGHT OUT HIS WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SUBJECT, BUT SAID HE HAD NOT HAD A CHANCE TO READ THEM. HE UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER WHAT IT REGARDED AS A CONTINUE EFFORT BY THE USG TO WALK AWAY FROM A COMMITMENT AND THAT THE TURKISH MILITARY WERE DEEPLY DISTURBED OVER THE PROSPECTS THAT IN FUTURE YEARS ALL E-W EXPENDITURES WOULD HAVE TO COME OUT OF A DWINDLING MAP FIGURE.

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3. I REVIEWED THE WEAKNESSES IN THE TURKISH CASE AND INDICATED MY FEELING THAT THIS MATTER WAS BEST BARGAINED OUT BETWEEN FRIENDS. HE AGREED AND SAID HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THE FIGURE THE TURKS HAD IN MIND FOR SETTLEMENT WAS \$50 MILLION. I INDICATED THIS AN UNREALISTIC AND UNJUSTIFIED FIGURE.

4. COMMENT. BELIEVE IT WILL BE VERY HELPFUL TO OUR EFFORTS HERE IF ALL WASHINGTON OFFICIALS CONTACTED BY AMBASSADOR ESENBEL ON THIS MATTER WOULD INDICATE USG BELIEF THAT GOT READING MUCH MORE INTO (A MOST UNCLEAR) AGREEMENT THAN WAS IRIGINALLY INTENDED AND POINT SHOULD BE CONTINUALLY MADE THAT TOP LEVELS OF USG DESPITE VAGARIES IN LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENT, HAVE NOW MADE MAXIMUM EFFORT TO COME UP WITH FUNDS TO SUPPORT A FAIR AND GOOD-FAITH SOLUTION. MACOMBER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF, USCINCEUR AND DIRNSA.

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